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Pat Says Nixon Sleeps Well

Washington

With her fist clenched, a tense Pat Nixon yesterday said the President "is in great health and I love him dearly and I have great faith."

The normally collected First Lady had come from Camp David, where Mr. Nixon has been secluded since Thursday to greet 150 wives of the National Religious Broadcasters in the White House state dining room.

Asked by reporters to comment on reports that Mr. Nixon has not been sleeping well lately, her eyes

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flashed and she said: "He doesn't sleep long, but he sleeps well. Sometimes his sleep is interrupted by telephone calls."

Does he get up in the middle of the night to play the piano?

He plays "before he goes to bed," Mrs. Nixon responded.

Then thrusting up an arm with her first clenched, she said: "He is in great health and I love him dearly and I have great faith."

Mrs. Nixon said most of the women who had come through the receiving line told her they "had faith in the President."

"I told them to pray for the press," she said.

"Does the press need prayers?" she was asked. "We all do. Who doesn't?" she answered.

"Is the press the cause of the President's problems?" a reporter queried.

"What problems?" the First Lady said with a determined smile as she headed for the elevator to her family quarters.

United Press